

HOLINESS MESSENGER

WITHOUT HOLINESS NO MAN SHALL SEE GOD.

VOLUME 54 NO. 9

DECEMBER - JANUARY, 2009

"Fear Nots" of the First Christmas

The story of the incarnation, of the birth of Christ, is a story of divine love. But there is another side of the story, a story of human fear and God's response to it.

There are three 'Fear nots' in the Nativity scene, the first spoken to Joseph, the second spoken to Mary in Luke 1:30, and the third spoken to the shepherds in Luke 2:10.

The first "Fear not" was given to Joseph, who was in what appeared to be an impossible situation. This first "fear not" speaks to us of the **IMPOSSIBILITY OF HIS CIRCUMSTANCES**. Matthew's account of the birth of Christ gives us Joseph's standpoint, and Luke's account is told from Mary's standpoint. Matt. 1:18 says 'The birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child'. It seems that at first Joseph did not know that this was of the Holy Ghost. He didn't know this was an immaculate conception. He didn't know this was the fulfillment of Isaiah 7.

When we look at Luke, chapters 1 and 2, we find that Mary did know. Gabriel the angel appeared to her and told her - but Joseph did not know, he was in the dark. Because Matthew has told us, we know that this child was of the Holy Ghost, but Joseph did not have Matthew's account. He didn't know this woman in a sexual sense, and as far as he was concerned no one else knew her. She was espoused to him to be his wife and his wife alone - how could this thing be? We find our life's circumstances impossible because we are ignorant of God's complete work. Our difficulty is having faith when we do not know all of the facts.

There is a great lesson is to be found in Joseph's reaction to his impossible situation. In all likelihood the first thought that came into Joseph's mind was the first thought that would come into your mind. 'She has been unfaithful to me.'

Joseph could have had Mary stoned. In John 8 you will remember there was a woman caught in adultery. She was pulled out before religious people - and they all lifted stones to stone her. Joseph would have very well been justified (he was a 'just man') to do away with her. He could have made this sin known, and the law would have condemned her to death. Joseph, it says, was a righteous man, and that means that Joseph knew that he couldn't sweep this sin under the carpet. He knew that it had to be dealt with in a right way. But Joseph, though righteous, was not cruel and arrogant. He knew it was right for him to put her away publicly, in other words to divorce her - but being a kind man, being a loving and a sympathetic man, he didn't want to bring public disgrace upon her. He didn't want to make her a public example. He searched for some way that he could put her away privily - quietly.

We need to give more respect to the character of Joseph, seeing the impossibility of his dilemma. He "thought on these things..." what were his thoughts? I am sure his thoughts were how to balance his love for Mary with his responsibility to justice. He loses no matter what choice he makes. This is the setting in which the angel says to him "fear not..." He is instructed by the angel of the Lord to take Mary as his wife, "for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."

That "fear not" gave him clear direction in an impossible situation. He knew the course of action to take because God gave

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THE HOLINESS MESSENGER
P.O. BOX 472202
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74147

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Permit 347

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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ARTICLES of FAITH

The object for which it is formed is: To preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and promote a better understanding among all brethren.

The Word of God alone shall be the Doctrine, Practice, and Discipline of this Board of Members: it being understood that we receive it as the inspired Word of God and the Divine rule of faith and conduct.

We believe in God the Father Almighty. Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried and arose on the third day according to the Scriptures, afterwards ascended into heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, from whence He is come again to judge the quick and dead.

We believe in Water Baptism and that it should be administered to every believer according to the Scriptures given by St. Matthew 3:17;28:19; St. Mark 16:15; Acts 8:36-38. We teach that the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin, and sanctifies the believer, thus making him or her eligible to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost which is given to them that obey (Acts 5:32) and the evidence of such experience shall be according to Acts 2:4.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the Communion of the saints, the Lord's Supper and washing the saint's feet. We believe that divine healing for our physical bodies was included in His suffering as mentioned by the prophet Isaiah 53:5. It is still available to all who meet conditions and according to His will (James 5:14).

We believe that all ministers should be of good report (1 Timothy 3:7-12) including Pastors, Evangelists, Deacons and Elders (Titus 1:5-7); and husbands of one wife.

We believe the Church of Jesus Christ to be a living Organism. The Body of Christ, and habitation of God through the Spirit (Ephesians 2:20-22), and that each true believer is a member of the Body (1 Corinthians 12:14; Acts 2:47).

By Brother Ira J. Roberts

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EDITOR'S DESK



"...My tongue is the pen of a ready writer."
Ps. 45:1



Rev. Ralph & Doreen Cox
9737 E. 66th St. Tulsa, OK 74133

Greetings dear friends, and may the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and his Son and the blessed Holy Ghost be on our side always. We are such a blessed people.

We underestimate his blessings to us.

At this time of the year we celebrate Christ's incarnation and birth.

Luke tells us that the angel Gabriel visited his peasant and pleasant mother to tell her that she, a virgin, would conceive and bear a son, and his name would be called Jesus, for he would save his people from their sins.



*God Bless
all as our thoughts
are drawn to the
Birth of Christ and
as we look with
hope to the New
Year!*

*From the Staff of
the Holiness Mes-
senger*

But this was not the first announcement of the virgin birth. For Isaiah wrote of this miracle more than 700 years earlier. This prophecy of Isaiah's is the longest prediction in the Old Testament. God wanted us to know how important this event was.

And God not only gave us the prophecy, but he also preserved it for us. For a copy of the entirety of the book of Isaiah was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. These scrolls, which were copied down between 250 BC and 68 AD were preserved in caves around the Dead Sea and can be seen today. You can go to Israel today and read the text.

Many have doubted the virgin birth, but we know and are confident that it is true. Not only because we have the witness of prophecy, not only because we have the testimony of Mary and Joseph, not only because that child of God, Jesus, grew up and proved himself, but also because this doctrine of Christ has proven itself in our lives time and time again. We know that if mankind will believe it and receive it, they can be saved from sin. Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Even the famous doubters have proven God's word. Thomas Paine, the famous Revolutionary War Pamphleteer and Patriot, was an infidel. He wrote a book named "The Age of Reason". In it, he decried against all faith and all belief in miracles and the Virgin Birth. On his death bed he asked the young girl who cared for him if she had read his book. "I began reading it," she replied, "but when I realized what it was saying I threw it in the fire." Thomas Paine cried

lamentably. "Oh how I wish everyone had done that."

Robert Green Ingersol, the Civil War era politician and famous agnostic was the son of a minister. His father preached with Charles G Finney, but Robert Ingersol rejected his father's religion. Shortly before his death he declared, "If Jesus Christ were alive today I would pay him homage."

Samuel Clemens (better known as Mark Twain) was intensely interested in eternal life. He read everything that he could on the subject; he checked out every book from every library that he could. On his death bed he said to his nurse, "Immortality! I still can't believe it, I can't believe it." His nurse answered, "Mr. Clemens, you do believe it, otherwise you would not have checked out all of these books about it." But Mark Twain died – still unable to believe.

"Fear Nots" of the First Christmas

FROM PAGE ONE

The infamous infidel, Voltaire, lay on his death bed and cried, "Oh, Jesus Christ, if there be a Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." But I'm not sure he got that mercy; some people wait too long.

A famous movie star said, "This stuff about heaven and hell, I don't believe it. She died, and I want you to know that she believes it now.

These people were all as unclean as Delilah who inveigled Samson into telling her about his hair; and when he was stupid enough to lay his head in her lap, he lost his locks of consecration. "Now grind at the mill," said the Philistines to the foolish former he-man, and grind he did. Although Samson could not see from his blinded eyes, he could still feel. He could feel the torments and mockery of his captors; he could feel the pain of his overtaxed muscles. And you will feel it too if you do not listen to the preacher, for God is fair to all the world and you have been told the truth.

Jesus saved me and he will save you too. John D. Jasper said, "I'm gonna preach it till the cows come home from the lowest field in the valley." I intend to do the same.

Thank you for your support. I can't send every one of you a Christmas card, but have a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We can't do without you.

Bro. Ralph Cox - Editor



Evangelist Scott Hostetler has started an Internet Radio Station that plays Gospel Music 24 hours a day. The artists are from a pentecostal/holiness background.

He has broadcast camp meetings live over the station and will be increasing the number of camp meetings that are broadcast. The station has been expanded to include holiness preaching as well as other holiness ministries. You may go to www.pentecostalvoiceoftruth.org

Or you may access it by going to www.holinessmessenger.com and clicking on his link. While the *HM* does not recommend the internet for entertainment or socializing, there is the opportunity to listen to holiness artists when necessary to be on the internet. All of Bro. Scott's contact info. is on the website. He may be reached by phone at 864-616-3181

him a word. When everything around us seems impossible, stop looking around and look up.

A businessman once spent one evening with a shepherd on the Texas prairie. During the night in the long wait he heard coyotes wailing. The shepherd dog's growled and peered into the darkness, not knowing the source of the noise. The sheep lumbered to their feet, alarmed, fearful, and bleating pitifully. The shepherd tossed more logs onto the fire; the flames shot up. The businessman looked around and saw thousands of little lights all around the prairie - the reflection of the fire in the eyes of the sheep. This is what the businessman said: 'I observed that the sheep were not looking into the darkness like the dogs, but the sheep were keeping their eyes set in the direction of safety, they were looking to the shepherd.'

The second "fear not" is spoken by Gabriel to Mary, the mother of Jesus. This "fear not" speaks to her **IGNORANCE OF THE METHODS OF GOD**. Luke makes note of the fear of Mary. Fear is a common human response at the manifestation of the divine.

Notice that Gabriel appears to Mary and says, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women (Lu. 1:28)." This sudden manifestation of an angelic being and the mystery of his words leave her perplexed and fearful. "She was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be." Mary did not understand the greeting. Because she was ignorant of the plan of God and of her part in the virgin birth, she instantly feared.

Gabriel, addressed her fear by saying, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

Apparently Mary had little trouble trusting God once she fully understood God's plan. Her fears were allayed once she knew the whole story. Do not many of our fears arise from us being ignorant of the plans and methods of God? Because we cannot see the whole picture it is hard for us to trust. When God does not explain himself and when we are ignorant of His ways, we need to rest assured that His plan will still work

The third "fear not" is found in Luke, 2. Does God announces the coming of His Son to a high priest? to a King? to a Scribe? No, but rather as Luke 2, verse 8-10 says "*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the an-*

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YOUTH PAGE

"Even the Youth... Shall Mount Up with Wings as the Eagles."



Darius Templeton
3201 Dryden Road Moraine OH, 45439

Bro. Darius is Youth Pastor at Dryden Road Pentecostal Church, Dayton Ohio, Where Bro. B. D. Sutherland is Pastor. I think you will be blessed by Bro. Darius' ministry as he will be our guest for the next few months. -Eds.

◆
Hello to all those reading this letter in the youth section. I hope you are having a good school year and preparing for youth camp's to start back up. I want to discuss a topic that is common to all men. Temptation! Temptation has been defined as, "an enticement to evil". Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

I feel the best place to start when talking about something so common to us all is in the beginning. That is what Paul does for us in 2 Corinthians 11:3 "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." Those at Corinth seemed to have a character that was always yielding to temptation. I hope that has not been the case with you this school year.

Understanding temptation

can help us resist it. Let's look first at two words found in 2 Corinthians 11:3: "beguiled" and "subtilty". The word beguiled is defined by Webster to mean: 1. To deceive somebody, to mislead or deceive somebody. 2. To charm someone, to win someone's attention, interest or devotion. 3. To cheat somebody of something, or cheat somebody out of something. Now look closely at the word "subtilty", which means cunning, wily, or crafty, skillful or clever. These two words alone imply behind every temptation is a deep dark plotting mind. Paul's fear for the saints at Corinth is they like Adam and Eve will fall into the serpent's trap. In Luke 22:31 Jesus tells Peter, "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." Jesus has unmasked the serpent and told us exactly who he is. The Devil was behind the first temptation, and he is still the master mind behind temptation. He is the driving force, but not the source of temptation. When we look at Eve as Paul does, we are forced to see the tempter behind her temptation.

Now look at the target of his temptation: Eve in the garden, Jesus in the wilderness, and now you. Matthew when writing about the temptation of Jesus said, "And when the tempter came to him." I need to tell you that the tempter has never stopped coming and will never stop coming because he has never lost his desire to sift a saint. You are under attack by a cruel adversary who is plotting and planning to deceive, mislead, charm you, and win your attention. The fall of the first man was affected by the seductions of the serpent. James 1:13 says, "let no man say when he is tempted: I am tempted of God." God is not the tempter behind your temptation. The devil is, and he is planning your sifting.

When we look at temptation we

Children grow up with teddy bears and often figure that since the toys are cuddly, the real things might also be so. In 1990 two boys scaled the fence at the Bronx Zoo in New York City and went into the polar bear compound. The next day they were found dead. Your pet sin can kill!

see Satan as the force, but we must look for the source. James tells us the source in 1:14. "Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." The beginning step in temptation is when you are drawn away from truth and virtue by your own lusts. You are the source of temptation, it is your "own lust", not someone else's. You may have been influenced by someone else, but you cannot blame someone else. Adam already tried that, and that seems to be our response when we are caught. The woman blamed the serpent, the man blamed the woman, and we continue the game today. But we need to realize that each of us is accountable for our own sin. You cannot go around saying, "the devil made me do it." He can hint at many things but he cannot force anything. You and I have the ability to make our own choices.

I have been made aware I grew up in a different decade, and that is true. Sin was not so easily accessed in my teenage years. But one thing is certain, the force and the source of temptation has not changed. We cannot do anything about the force, but we can do something about the source. When David fell to temptation, he cried, "Create within me a clean heart oh God." We can prepare ourselves for temptation thru prayer, "lead us not into temptation." By reading Gods word, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." Prayer and reading Gods word are major weapons in our warfare with temptation.

The history of every temptation, and of every sin, is the same; the outward object of attraction, the inward commotion of the mind, the increase and triumph of passionate desire; ending in the humiliation, slavery and ruin of the soul. If you have caved in under temptation, your failure does not need to be final. According to 1 John 2:1 (KJV) "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" There is help, hope and forgiveness at the cross of Calvary.

Darius Templeton

"Fear Not" of the First Christmas

FROM PAGE THREE

gel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

This "fear not" to these shepherds was intended to speak to their sense of unworthiness or the **INSIGNIFICANCE THEY FELT TOWARD THEMSELVES.**

If the Lord Jesus Christ was going to be Messiah, He would have to fulfill Micah 5, verse 2, where the prophet Micah said: *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* Jesus had to be born in Bethlehem. If He was not born in Bethlehem, He could not be the Messiah. Now Luke emphasizes that Christ fulfilled this prophecy of Micah, and indeed was born in Bethlehem. He didn't just show that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but how He came to be born in Bethlehem. There was a problem. The pregnant Mary, was not in Bethlehem, Mary was in Nazareth. that prophecy could not therefore be fulfilled - so she needed to get to Bethlehem. Luke tells us that taxation was imposed upon the Jews which meant everyone had to return to the city from which their family sprang for a census. Caesar Augustus was the man who ordered the census, so Caesar unknowingly required Joseph and Mary to return to Bethlehem from Nazareth.

Caesar knew nothing of what the effect of his census would be. The last thing he would have done was fulfill this prophecy. In fact, he was employing this census across the whole of the Roman Empire to get a greater control over parts of the Empire. Yet, Caesar Augustus, a godless man who was opposed to everything that God's will was, actually was found to be the fulfilling instrument of Micah 5:2. Now if that doesn't cause you to believe in the sovereignty of God

Though God used Caesar indirectly to fulfill His purposes, He chose to appear individually to the humble shepherds. In those days, the vocation of a shepherd was thought to be a lowly job. The Pharisaic Jews at that time, considered the shepherd to be an outcast socially and religiously. They were poorly paid and the religious people were forbidden to buy wool or milk or meat from them. Certain civic practices were debarred from them, such as being a judge or a witness in the court. In fact,

Caesar Augustus, a godless man who was opposed to everything that was God's will, actually was found to be the fulfilling instrument of Micah 5:2. He ordered the census that would require Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem.

people were to withdraw from a shepherd in the same sense as they would withdraw from a tax collector. Their work not only made them ceremonially unclean, but it kept them away from the temple for weeks at a time on end, and that meant they could never be made clean even if they wanted to.

Why did the announcement of Christ's birth come to these shepherds? Here's the first reason why the shepherds heard it first: because God does not call the rich and the mighty, He calls the poor and the lowly. In Luke chapter 1 and verse 51 we read these words: *'He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away'*. Is that not what Paul said in 1 Corinthians chapter 1:26: *'For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty'*.

Shepherds, for some reason, weren't even allowed to testify as a witness in the court - but isn't it striking that when God wanted to testify to the world that His Son had come, he used the outcast, the lowly shepherds as his first witnesses? Faith is for the ordinary working man - faith is for everyone, no matter your class, or your creed, or your ability. Moses was keeping sheep, just like the shepherds, when God came and called him. Gideon was threshing wheat when God called him. Elisha was plowing in the field when God called him. When these men received the revelation and the call of God they were working, because they were ordinary men - not the emperors of this world!

James S. Stewart, the preacher, put it like this: "Is there not a world of meaning in the fact that it was the very ordinary people, busy about very ordinary tasks, whose eyes first saw the glory of the coming Lord. It means first that the place of duty, however humble, is the place of vision."

When we read the second chapter of Luke it seems that God is saying, "I can work my will through the high and lofty people in human empires like Caesar Augustus. But the most glorious manifestation of myself is given to the meek and lowly - as shepherds." When the shepherds cringed in fear at the sudden appearance of heavenly glory, the angels instantly consoled them, "fear not." These poor men learned at that moment that they had great significance in this unfolding drama. Their heads lifted and caught full in the face, the Glory of God! Let us do likewise!!!



A word from the WORD

Father...An Everlasting Father: *Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

We all know the passage of Scripture in Isaiah 9:6,7 has to do with the coming Messiah (The Christ). This title "everlasting Father" ... does this prove for our friends in the "Jesus Only" movement that Christ is "The Father" and as such, there is only one in the Godhead? LET US SEE.

The word "Father" used here is the Hebrew, 'ab, so used in the Old Testament 1191 times and in this instance means, "protector, nourisher, or advisor. Job said in 29:19 "I was a father ('ab) to the poor. Now, he did not mean all the poor were his children but just that he cared for, protected and helped the poor. In Isaiah 22, Eliakim, an officer in the King's court was elevated in office and God said in 22:21, "and he shall be a father ('ab) to the inhabitants of Jerusalem." This did not mean those inhabitants were his children, only that he was to protect and care for them. Joseph, in explaining to his brothers in Egypt, how God had worked to care for them, said, "He (God) hath made me a father ('ab) to Pharaoh, (Gen. 45:8)" not that Pharaoh was his child but that God placed Joseph there as advisor to Pharaoh.

So, we see that father ('ab) has a wide use and the idea of protection implied in the word, father ('ab), contains also the notion of creator and preserver, and the Messiah was to fill all these roles. There is a division of duties in the Godhead (Trinity). God the Father will supply, Jesus is the architect or builder, (and as such, it was fitting, for He was born in a carpenter's home) and the Holy Ghost is the finish worker, "By His Spirit He hath garnished the heavens." (Job 26: 13). He is doing the finish work on the church age.

Above I said protection implied the thought of creator and preserver. Here we enter into John 1: 1,2, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.*" In verse 14, "*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.*"

John 1:3 tells us, "All things were made by Him." Here we have the architect-builder at work in creation and this places upon Him the responsibility to protect, nourish and preserve that which He has made, In this role He may well be called, as in Isaiah 9:6, the 'ab), father. As the church has lived on through the centuries. He must be more than a short term

'(ab) father, but an "everlasting " one.

In several scriptures in John, Jesus says, "*The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the father do: , ..these also doeth the Son likewise (John 5: 19) .*" "I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me (John 5: 30) ." "I do nothing of myself, but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things (John 8: 28)." "I speak that which I have seen with my Father (John 8: 38)" See also, John 12: 49,51 & John 14:31.

In each use of Father here, Jesus used the Greek word, PATER, meaning literally, "Father or Parent" not just protector, nourisher or advisor. So, there is no conflict between the use of Father for God here and Father for Christ in Isaiah 9:6.

W. H. Wyatt,
The Pentecostal Handbook

Good News FROM OKLAHOMA

Holiness Missions to America is an outreach ministry organization designed to reach the least, the last, and the lost. Founded by Rev D.Todd Sloggett, HMA is now three strong with a homeless mission church in Tulsa, OK, an affiliate in Tavares, FL, as well as, a brand new chapter in Lawton, OK. Bro Todd, Bro Earl Wayne Krumsiek, Bro Rob Bowers, and Bro Brandon Murray, as well as, many other Christian workers are responsible for the day-to-day workings of these three mission churches.

We pick up the homeless and bring them to church, feed them and give them clothing. God has blessed our efforts in 2008. We have been able, with the help of the Lord, to help 55 homeless people get off the streets of Tulsa and into jobs and housing. We are also working with several homeless families in Florida and homeless and state prisoners in Lawton. We've had 100's attend our services, many have prayed, and many have gotten saved.

We would like to thank the churches and many individuals supporting us on a regular basis. Financial support is received at PO Box 12, Sapulpa, OK 74067. HMA is a not-for-profit, incorporated in the state of Oklahoma. For clothing and other donations, please contact our Donation Center at (918) 224-8060. Needed items at this time are non-canned, nonperishable food items, coats for winter, blankets, socks, hats, gloves, underwear, etc. These donations are received at HMA headquarters at 1234 N 9th St, Sapulpa, OK. For questions regarding Holiness Missions to America, Inc. and our affiliates, contact Rev. D. Todd Sloggett at (918) 760-1048. To receive our newsletters please contact us at (918) 512-6720.



Forgiving and Forgetting...A couple of psychologists and newlyweds over the first decade of their marriage, they discovered that couples who stayed together uttered 5 or fewer put-downs in

every 100 comments to each other. But couples who inflicted twice as many verbal wounds — 10 or more put-downs out of every 100 comments — later split up. Words can heal and words can wound. We need be careful what we say and how we say it.

There is another thing to consider and that is how we react to what is said to us. We are not responsible for others actions, but we are responsible for our reactions to them. My Advice is to learn to **Forgive and Forget**.

When I say "forget", It doesn't mean the you never will recall in memory the things which hurt you, but forgetting means that these things no longer control you emotionally when you do think about them.

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was reminded one day of a vicious deed that someone had done to her years before. But she acted as if she had never even heard of the incident. "Don't you remember it?" her friend asked. "No," came Barton's reply, "I distinctly remember forgetting it."

We must learn to forget, unless the past become a prison to your future. In his book, *Lee: The Last Years*, Charles Bracelen Flood reports that after the Civil War, Robert E. Lee visited a Kentucky lady who took him to the remains of a grand old tree in front of her house. There she bitterly cried that its limbs and trunk had been destroyed by Federal artillery fire. She looked to Lee for a word condemning the North or at least sympathizing with her loss. After a brief silence, Lee said, "Cut it down, my dear Madam, and forget it." It is better to forgive the injustices of the past than to allow them to remain, for to fail to do so is to let bitterness take root and poison the rest of our life.

Have we not needed forgiveness ourselves for some wrong done to another which caused their pain? If we expect to be forgiven we must forgive. General Oglethorpe once said to John Wesley, "I never forgive and I never forget." To which

Wesley replied, "Then, Sir, I hope you never sin."

It isn't easy to forget and forgive. It may prove to be the greatest struggle of your life, but if God requires us to forgive, it surely is a possibility. In closing, I have found this advice from Corrie ten Boom to be inspiring. She was a POW in the Holocaust.

She told of not being able to forget a wrong that had been done to her. She had forgiven the person, but she kept rehashing the incident and so couldn't sleep. Finally Corrie cried out to God for help in putting the problem to rest. "His help came in the form of a kindly Lutheran pastor," Corrie wrote, "to whom I confessed my failure after two sleepless weeks." "Up in the church tower," he said, nodding out the window, "is a bell which is rung by pulling on a rope. But you know what? After the sexton lets go of the rope, the bell keeps on swinging. First ding, then dong. Slower and slower until there's a final dong and it stops. I believe the same thing is true of forgiveness. When we forgive, we take our hand off the rope. But if we've been tugging at our grievances for a long time, we mustn't be surprised if the old angry thoughts keep coming for a while. They're just the ding-dongs of the old bell slowing down." "And so it proved to be. There were a few more midnight reverberations, a couple of dings when the subject came up in my conversations, but the force — which was my willingness in the matter — had gone out of them. They came less and less often and at the last stopped altogether: we can trust God not only above our emotions, but also above our thoughts."

✍️ A Point To Ponder ✍️

While crossing a bridge in London, John Wesley stumbled and sprained his ankle. Some friends carried him to the house of Mrs. Mary Vazielle on Threadneedle Street. She was a widow with several children. She cared for Wesley and his response to her concern was to ask her to marry him. If we were writing fiction we might say that the sprained ankle was God's providential way to bring those people together. But the marriage was a disaster, and Mary finally left John.

Had Wesley consulted with his brother Charles, and asked for the prayers of the brethren, he might have avoided that unfortunate situation. Mary was accustomed to her quiet home, and it was difficult for her to travel with her husband and stay in uncomfortable inns. It is unfortunate that Mary was not content just to ignore John's ministry; she actually opposed it. She gave certain personal letters to his enemies and even made additions to them that made them worse! Once she even pulled her husband around on the floor by his hair! "I felt as though I could have knocked the soul out of her!" one of Wesley's friends said. Wesley concluded that his unhappy marriage encouraged him to work harder and not complain about missing the comforts of a home. Certainly it encouraged him to be away from home more!

Prophecy Conference

Trinity Pentecostal Tabernacle
Louisville, KY, Feb. 26-28

9:30 a.m. - Morning Services
7:30 p.m. - Evening Services

Night Speaker: Rev. B. D. Sutherland
Youth Service: Fri. Night 6:00 PM

Day Speakers: Bro. Dwain Galiher, Randy Webb, Tom Peretic, Michael Switzer & others...

Host Pastor: Rev. Bill Finley
502-964-0528 or 502-552-8596
Bro. Kevin Lloyd 937-832-1215

Full Meal after Each Service
Lodging Info. posted here next Issue.

Idabel, OK
Holiness Convocation
February 25-27

Day Spkr Visiting Ministers
Night Speaker Eugene Futral
Pastor Philip Snow
580-286-3545

◆
Tulsa, OK
Hale Station Holiness Church
Homecoming Fellowship
March 6-8

10:00 AM Bro. Carl Page
Night Spkr Bro. Terry Guthrie
Pastor Eric McDaniel
918-697-9620

◆
Sterlington, LA
Sterlington Holiness Tabernacle
11th Annual Fellowship Meeting,
March 6-8

10:00 AM Bro. Bill Parks
6:00 PM Youth Service
7:30 PM Bro. Matt Homer
Pastor T. D. Boyd 318-537-1019 or
318-665-0788

◆
Stuttgart, AR
Stuttgart Holiness Church
Fellowship Meeting, April 15 - 18
Day Speaker Brent Gabbard
Night Speaker Randy Webb
Pastor Shaun Thompson
606-391-8530

◆
Raven, VA
Westside Holiness Church
Campmeeting April 29-May 3
10 AM Bro Charles Barnett
and Visiting Ministers
7 PM Bro. Paul Markee
Pastor: Bro. Mike Roberts 276-971-2022
or 276-971-1306

Conservative Christian Ministries
Ladies Retreat in the Smokies
April 23-24, 2009
Held at the Holiday Inn,
Pigeon Gorge,
Speakers:
Sis. Ruth Brimm, Sis. Carol Martin

MUST Register to Attend
Contact: Sis. Connie Harman 276-964-
5663 or ccharman@roadrunner.com
www.conservativechristianministries.com

Minister's Conference

Smokey Shadows Conference Center
Jan. 27-29, 2008

Jan. 27: 10:00 AM, Bro. Ben Shaw, Bro. Joey Hight, 7:00 PM, Bro. Randy Webb
Jan 28: 10:00 AM, Bro. Doug Webb, Bro. Dwain Galiher, 7:00 PM Bro. Ralph Horton
Jan. 31: (no morning service) 7:00 PM,
Bro. Lloyd Shuecraft

Don Ingram 865-932-0580
Contact: Ryan Ralston 912-748-3335,
Bro. Michael Switzer, 817-750-0043, Bor.

There will a special honorary ceremony for
two Holiness Elders: Bro. Bill Addis & Bro.
Ralph Cox

Motel number is 1-800-251-4444
Mention Ministers Conference for Special
Rates

Tuscaloosa, AL
Harmony Holiness Church
Annual Fellowship Meeting
May 12-15
Day Spkr Brent Gabbard
Night Speaker Bro. John Gabbard
For Info contact: Pastor Ralph Lowery
205-792-6252 or David Beard
205-535-0523

◆
Holy Land Tour
Jordan & Israel
Feb. 26 - Mar. 8
Hosted by:
Thomas Mccoy, 859-338-3177 or Co-
Host: Brent Moore 859-445-9050 Call
For more Info.

NOTICE

Pastors and camp directors, please
send info concerning special meetings
you wish to announce as early in the
year as possible. We get numerous
requests for this info as many must
plan their vacations near the first of
the year and like to to do so to attend
these special services. Note that most
day services begin on the second day
of the meeting. Please call contact
number for that information

Special Services

Fellowship, Camp Meetings

Putney, GA
Southwest GA 12th Annual
Campmeeting, Dec. 30 - Jan. 2
7:30 PM Bro. John Gabbard
6:00 PM Bro. Bruce Johnson
10:00 AM Bro. L. D. Savage
Pastor Noah Phillips 229-438-7210 or
229-438-7219

◆
Pine Prairie, LA
Christian Tabernacle
3rd Annual Homecoming Camp Meeting
January 7-9
Thus. & Fri 10 AM Dallas Lakes
Thurs & Fri 5:30 PM Brandon Murray
Night Speaker T.D. Boyd
Contact: Pastor Barry Gautreaux 337-
599-2348 or 337-224-5906

◆
Glencoe, AL
Liberty Holiness Church
Annual Winter Fellowship Meeting
Jan. 15-18
Day Spkr Bro. Bill Preskitt
Night Spkr Bro. Lynn Head
Pastor Joe Mayo 256-546-7373